

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LEFTIST LABOR ATTACKS PROPOSED REVISION OF TRADE UNION LAW

SUMMARY. SUSPENSION OF CIVIL SERVICE JOB SECURITY PROVISIONS FOR FIVE MONTHS AND PROPOSED CHANGES IN LAW GOVERNING TRADE UNIONS, WHICH SEEK TO STRENGTHEN VERTICALITY OF COMMAND WITHIN GOVERNMENT AND LABOR MOVEMENT, ARE UNDER STRONG ATTACK BY LEFTIST LABOR FORCES. PASSAGE OF NEW LAW REGULATING TRADE UNION ACTIVITY APPEARS LIKELY, DESPITE SUCH OPPOSITION, AND WILL RESULT IN MORE DISCIPLINED, BUT LESS DEMOCRATIC, LABOR MOVEMENT.

1. LEFTIST PERONIST AND NON-PERONIST LABOR ORGANIZATIONS ARE ENGAGED IN CAMPAIGN TO FORESTALL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF CGT AND PERONIST 62 ORGANIZATIONS SPONSORED REVISION OF LAW OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, WHICH REGULATES ACTIVITIES OF TRADE UNION SECTOR. LEFTIST PERONIST LABOR YOUTH ORGANIZATION, JTP, IS SPONSORING MASSIVE RALLY NOV 2 IN LUNA PARK STADIUM TO PROTEST LAW, WHICH IT CHARGES IS MANEUVER BY "TRADE UNION BUREAUCRACY" TO PERPETUATE ITSELF IN POWER. LEFTIST NON-PERONIST UNIONS HAVE ALSO PUBLICLY ATTACKED PROPOSED LAW THROUGH PAID NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCEMENTS. NATIONAL CGT AND ALIGNED UNIONS HAVE COUNTER-ATTACHED THROUGH THEIR OWN NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS AND AN OCT 31

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RALLY BY OFFICIAL PERONIST LABOR YOUTH ORGANIZATION, JSP.

2. MAJOR PROVISIONS OF DRAFT LAW, WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED SHORTLY BY CONGRESS, ARE EXTENSION OF TRADE UNION OFFICER'S TERM-OF-OFFICE TO FOUR YEARS, IMMUNITIES FOR TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES (FUERO SINDICAL), ONLY ONE UNION PER SECTOR AUTHORIZED TO UNDERTAKE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS FOR ENTIRE SECTOR, NATIONAL LEVEL UNIONS/ FEDERATIONS WILL BE PERMITTED TO INTERVENE SUBORDINATE UNIONS AND REPLACE ELECTED OFFICERS, ORDINARY CONGRESSES WILL BE REQUIRED ONLY EVERY TWO YEARS, WITH ADDITIONAL STIPULATION THAT 20 PER CENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP - RATHER THAN PRESENT 5 PER CENT - MUST PETITION BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS CAN BE CALLED, DENIAL OF JUDICIARY JURISDICTION IN TRADE UNION DISPUTES, AND AUTHORITY FOR TRADE UNIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

3. IN ANOTHER LABOR/POLITICAL MOVE, CONGRESS APPROVED ON OCT 31 A FIVE-MONTH SUSPENSION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW, THEREBY PERMITTING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO BE DISCHARGED AND REPLACED WITHOUT SPECIFIC GROUNDS FOR DISCHARGE AS PROVIDED BY LAW. THE BILL, WHICH WAS OPPOSED ONE HUNDRED PER CENT BY OPPOSITIONIST LEGISLATORS, WAS SOUGHT BY THE JUSTICIALIST BLOC TO PERMIT THE REPLACEMENT OF "ANTI-NATIONALISTS WHO OBTAINED THEIR POSITIONS DURING THE PREVIOUS MILITARY GOVERNMENTS".

4. COMMENT. PASSAGE OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS LAW REVISIONS, WHICH APPEARS QUITE LIKELY, WILL BE A DIRECT BLOW AGAINST INTERNAL TRADE UNION DEMOCRACY, AS MUSCLE OF LOCAL UNION OFFICERS AND WORKERS WILL BE WEAKENED CONSIDERABLY, WHILE NATIONAL LEVEL LEADERS WILL BE GIVEN ALMOST DICTATORIAL POWERS OVER TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES. THE CHANGES ARE JUSTIFIED UNDER THE PERONIST CONCEPT OF "VERTICALIDAD", WHEREBY ALL AUTHORITY EMANATES FROM THE TOP AND MUST BE ACCEPTED UNQUESTIONINGLY BY INFERIOR OFFICERS AND THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP. THE NET RESULT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF PERON AND THE OFFICIAL PERONIST LABOR MOVEMENT IN DEALINGS WITH DISSIDENTS, AND MEAN A MORE DISCIPLINED LABOR MOVEMENT. HOWEVER, IT WILL NOT BE AS FREE A MOVEMENT. AS ONE PERONIST CGT OFFICIAL OBSERVED TO LABATT, "WE WILL HAVE A NICE DICTATORSHIP UNDER THE GUISE OF A DEMOCRACY".
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